nature the shelly gasteropoda ranked in two great divisions, according to their principal food, give the following proportions : —

Herbivorous gasteropoda	- 1400
Zoophagous ———	- 1700

these divisions, in the fossil state, yield, —

Herbivorous gasteropoda	- 1160
Zoophagous ———	- 1110

It appears then, that the fossil world of mollusca differs remarkably from the actual creation in the greater proportionate abundance of cephalopoda, herbivorous gasteropoda and brachiopodous and mesomyonous conchifera. If the whole number of species of shelly mollusca of the three classes named, were supposed 1000 in the fossil and recent states, the proportions of the several groups would be nearly as under : —

	Fossil.	Recent.
Conchifera plagimyona - -	205	280
——— mesomyona - -	142	70
——— brachiopoda - -	75	10
Gasteropoda phytophaga -	225	280
——— zoophaga -	215	340
Cephalopoda - - - -	138	20

These differences, however, are by no means equal in all the several systems of strata : they are least in the tertiary, and greatest in the older classes of rocks. If the total number of shelly mollusca in any one system be called 1000, the proportionate number of the several classes may be seen in the following table, and compared with the recent creation.

	Primary.	Carboniferous.	Saliferous.	Oolitic.	Cretaceous.	Tertiary.	Living
Conchifera plagimyona	157	93	271	246	198	268	280
——— mesomyona	66	74	271	174	246	70	70
——— brachiopoda	365	306	237	79	144	8	10
Gasteropoda phytophaga	166	250	144	135	114	172	280
——— zoophaga	17	30?	25	12	32	388	340
Cephalopoda	229	242	52	354	266	94	20